

Washington Wire

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CPYRGHT

U.S. PROWL over Cuba. Findings are reassuring.

High-altitude aerial snooping convinces U.S. strategists that Castro's military potential is mainly defensive. They find no sign of missile bases, no build-up of offensive strength for invasion of Latin lands. Cuba's navy lacks long-range striking power. Some experts reckon Russia deliberately leashes Castro, lest he rashly risk major war.

But Cuba lengthens its airstrips to accommodate Soviet-supplied MIG jet fighters. Americans figure Cuba could now repel an invasion bigger than last April's Bay of Pigs landing. Castro steps up his propaganda throughout the hemisphere, helps Red guerrillas in many lands. He eyes Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Venezuela, Bolivia.

U.S. policymakers debate whether to aggravate Cuba's economic troubles by sabotage. Few of the idea get the upper hand. They prefer to save secret agents for eventual direct efforts to overthrow the Red regime.